

NOAA In Your State

Illinois

NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by [congressional districts and cities or towns](#), [Great Lakes programs](#), and then [statewide programs](#).

Highlights of NOAA in Illinois

Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment	Champaign County	IL-15
Midwest Regional Climate Center	Champaign County	IL-15
Carbon America	Peru	IL-16
Great Lakes Bay-Watershed Education and Training Program	Statewide	IL
Restoration Center	Great Lakes	IL

The state of Illinois also has two Weather Forecasting Offices and three Science on a Sphere® exhibitions.

Weather Forecast Offices

Chicago IL-3

Lincoln IL-18

National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) are staffed 24/7/365 and provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Illinois. There are 122 WFOs nationwide of which two are in Illinois. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for weather events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including wireless emergency alerts, social media, weather.gov, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs that strengthen working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. Forecasters provide Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site during critical emergencies such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and major recovery efforts. To gather data for forecasting and other purposes, NWS WFO staff monitor, maintain and use Automated Surface Observing Stations and Doppler Weather Radar. In addition to the WFOs, NWS operates specialized national prediction centers and regional headquarters throughout the U.S. for a total of 168 operational units. Over 85% of NWS' workforce is in the field. For current Illinois weather, visit www.weather.gov and, on the national map, click on the relevant county or district.

Science On a Sphere®

Chicago IL-2

Springfield IL-13

Tremont IL-18

Science On a Sphere (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating what are sometimes complex environmental processes. They are located at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, the National Museum of Surveying in Springfield, and at Precision Planting in Tremont.

IL- 1, 5, 7

Chicago

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Real-Time Meteorological Observation Network

The Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory's Marine Instrumentation Laboratory has deployed and is maintaining a real-time network of shore-based meteorological instrument packages, including one in Chicago. The meteorological observations obtained from the network are being used in GLERL's Great Lakes Coastal Forecasting System to improve nowcasts and forecasts of wind, waves, water levels, ice cover, and circulation. In addition, the National Weather Service forecast office in Chicago is using the observations to improve marine forecasts and warnings.

The Chicago station measures/records wind speed, wind gust, wind direction, and air temperature at five-minute increments that are updated every 15 minutes on the web. In addition, a webcam provides an image of near shore Chicago waters and skyline that is updated every 10 minutes.

IL- 2

Chicago

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere®](#)- See [Page 2](#) for details.

NOAA Office of Education — [Environmental Literacy Program](#)

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In Illinois, ELP supports the Museum of Science and Industry (Cook), which has a permanent exhibit featuring NOAA's Science On a Sphere (SOS) and is a member of NOAA's SOS Users Collaborative Network (SOS Network). The SOS Network connects over 150 science education institutions worldwide to the latest NOAA data as part of a focused effort to increase environmental literacy at all ages.

IL-3

Chicago

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)- See [Page 2](#) for details.

IL-7

Chicago

NOAA Office of Education — [Environmental Literacy Program](#)

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In Illinois, ELP supports the John G. Shedd Aquarium (Cook) as a member of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network, which is a consortium of 25 aquariums and marine science education centers working together to engage the public in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems.

IL-13

Bondville

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Surface Aerosol Monitoring](#)

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory Global Monitoring Laboratory (ESRL/GML) operates surface-based aerosol monitoring sites in six states and one territory (Puerto Rico). ESRL/GML's aerosol monitoring capabilities include continental sites in response to the finding that human activities primarily influence aerosols on regional/continental scales rather than on global scales. Aerosols create a significant perturbation of the Earth's radiative balance on regional scales. The Illinois site is located in rural Champaign County at the Bondville Environmental and Atmospheric Research Site, about 10 miles south-west of Urbana-Champaign. The measurements made include aerosol optical properties (how the particles absorb and scatter solar radiation), aerosol number concentration and chemical composition of the aerosol particles. The site was established in 1994.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Surface Radiation Measurement Network](#)

The Earth System Research Laboratory Global Monitoring Laboratory operates seven stations as part of its surface radiation budget network (SURFRAD). The station measurements support regional and global weather and climate research with accurate, continuous, long-term measurements of the surface radiation budget over the United States. Solar radiation is the driving energy for geophysical and biological processes that control weather and affect planetary life; understanding the global surface energy budget is, therefore, key to understanding climate and the environmental

consequences to agriculture and other statewide concerns. Because it is impractical to cover the whole earth with monitoring stations, the answer to global coverage lies in reliable satellite-based observations. Accurate and precise ground-based measurements across a range of climate regions are essential to refine and verify the satellite observations. One of these stations is located near Bondville. These ground-based measurements also support special research projects on radiation and climate processes in the Illinois region and serve as important verification for weather forecasts.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Ultraviolet Radiation Monitoring Network](#)

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory Global Monitoring Laboratory (ESRL/GML) operates an ultraviolet radiation (UV) monitoring network site (NEUBrew) in Bondville. These measurements are done as part of ESRL/GML's research on the Earth's surface radiation budget. Research efforts are devoted to the extent and cause of observed variations in long-term radiation and meteorological measurements, using satellite observations and climate model calculations. In addition, observations of spectral solar radiation are made for remote sensing of certain atmospheric constituents and spectral solar UV is measured for the investigation of the interaction of ozone and solar radiation. ESRL/GML also provides essential instrument calibration services for national and worldwide partner UV monitoring networks.

[Springfield](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere®](#)- See [Page 2](#) for details.

[IL-14](#)

[Aurora](#)

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Center Weather Service Unit](#)

Housed in the Federal Aviation Administration's Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), the NWS Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) staff provides forecasts and other aviation weather information to ARTCC personnel for use in directing the safe, smooth flow of aviation traffic in northern Illinois, northern Indiana, southwestern Michigan, southern Wisconsin, and eastern Iowa.

[IL-15](#)

[Champaign County](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) - - [National Centers for Environmental Information](#) - [Midwest Regional Climate Center](#)

NOAA NCEI's six Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) support the development and delivery of a wide range of place-based climate science and information products and services to assist decision makers in making informed decisions. The RCCs are a federal-university cooperative effort that supports the operational production and delivery of climate data and information to decision-makers at regional levels. The RCCs also participate in basic and applied climate research as well as user engagement and outreach activities. The service provided by the RCCs has evolved through time to become an efficient, user-driven program that exemplifies many of the components that have been cited for effective regional climate services.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment](#)

NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory has several observational sites that support the World Climate Research Programme's Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX). One of NOAA's GEWEX sites is located near Champaign, IL. GEWEX sites were established to provide detailed measurements (such as turbulent fluxes of heat, water vapor, momentum, carbon dioxide, air temperature, and relative humidity) and other information about the physical and biological processes that occur at the land/surface interface.

[Homer](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Carbon Cycle Gases and Halocarbons](#)

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory Global Monitoring Laboratory (ESRL/GML) operates a small aircraft-based North American network of sampling sites to measure vertical profiles of important greenhouse gas concentrations. Air is sampled above the surface up to approximately 25,000 feet above sea level using a relatively small, light, and economical automated system developed by ESRL/GML researchers. These air samples are delivered to ESRL/GML in Boulder, Colorado for measurements of CO₂, CH₄, and other greenhouse gasses.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Ozone Measurements](#)

NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory Global Monitoring Laboratory (ESRL/GML) conducts long-term monitoring of ozone at the surface, with aircraft, and with balloons, through cooperative relationships with local partners. The ESRL/GML tropospheric ozone aircraft measurement program is being done in conjunction with the Carbon Cycle and Greenhouse Gas (CCGG) group's existing aircraft sampling network. Aircraft based in-situ tropospheric ozone measurements provide data relevant to: pollution events, lower atmosphere mixing dynamics, boundary layer stability, ozone trend studies, and the validity of other samples collected in-flight. Near ground level ozone is currently monitored using ultraviolet absorption photometers at eight sites that are generally representative of background conditions. These sites, four of which have records exceeding 25 years in length, provide information on possible long-term changes in tropospheric ozone near the surface and support air quality research.

[IL-16](#)

[Shabbona](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

[IL-18](#)

[Lincoln](#)

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)- See [Page 2](#) for details.

[Tremont](#)

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere®](#)- See [Page 2](#) for details.

Great Lakes

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Restoration Center](#)

The NOAA Restoration Center, within the Office of Habitat Conservation, works with private and public partners locally and nationwide to increase fisheries productivity by restoring coastal habitat. Projects support sustainable fisheries, help recover threatened and endangered species, and reverse damage from disasters like oil spills, ship groundings, and severe storms. In the Great Lakes, the NOAA Restoration Center focuses on restoring the most degraded environments--designated Areas of Concern. Our projects address loss of habitat and diminished fish and wildlife populations. Since 2008, we have targeted roughly \$40 million to restore more than 5200 acres of habitat for fish and wildlife and opened more than 780 miles of river for fish passage. NOAA is also working with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to implement habitat restoration projects that will help improve Areas of Concern.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Office for Coastal Management](#)

The NOAA Office for Coastal Management practices a partner-based, boots on the ground approach to coastal management. The organization currently has staff in the eight regions who provide assistance to local, state, and regional coastal resource management efforts and facilitate customer feedback and assessments. Great Lakes regional staff are located in Chanhassen and Duluth, MN, Chicago, IL and Traverse City, MI. In addition to providing NOAA products and services, these staff represent NOAA on multiple regional governance structures, including but not limited to, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration to improve the management of natural resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Zone Management Program](#)

Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to implement the National Coastal Management Program in Illinois. NOAA provides the state coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Digital Coast](#)

The Digital Coast is a focused information resource developed to meet the unique needs of coastal communities. Developed and maintained by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, content comes from hundreds of organizations, including federal, state, and local agencies, plus private sector and non-profit contributors. The Digital Coast website provides not only site-specific coastal data, but also related the tools, training, and information needed to make these data useful for coastal decision makers.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Scientific Support Coordinator and Regional Resource Coordinator](#)

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) brings decades of experience, technical expertise and scientific analysis in response to oil and hazardous chemical spills. Eleven regionally based Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs) harness the input of a multi-disciplinary team to address issues such as oil slick trajectory forecasting, environmental tradeoffs, best practices, resources at risk, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. OR&R also helps develop preparedness plans that identify spill response actions with the greatest environmental benefit and trains hundreds of members of the response community each year on the scientific and technical aspects of spills.

OR&R identifies and quantifies environmental injury caused by releases of oil and hazardous materials. Our network of Regional Resource Coordinators (RRC's) work on multi-disciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams with the goal of securing the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use. We collaborate with NMFS Restoration Center and NOAA General Council

through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program to ensure the process is efficient, legally defensible and restoration focused. Illinois' RRC is based in Chicago. To date, DARRP has recovered over \$2M for restoration of natural resources injured by three hazardous waste sites in Illinois.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – OR&R [Environmental Sensitivity Index \(ESI\) maps/data](#)

Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps are an OR&R product that provides oil spill responders and planners with a concise summary of coastal resources that could be at risk if an oil spill occurs nearby. ESI maps were originally created for the Great Lakes between 1985-1994 (depending on region) and had not been updated for decades due to limited resources. In 2020, with funding from the EPA through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, OR&R completed an update of the sensitivity maps/data for the Straits of Mackinac and the St. Clair-Detroit River System. OR&R recently established a new agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard to update the ESI maps for two more regions: St. Marys River, connecting Lake Superior to Lake Huron, and St. Lawrence River, from its start in Lake Ontario to the U.S./Canadian Border. These ESI updates will be completed by mid-2021. Spill responders and planners for the Great Lakes region and Canada will benefit from the updated sensitivity data. OR&R continues to seek opportunities to update these key components of emergency response planning, preparedness, and response. When completed, the ESI maps and data will be available for download from the OR&R website, as well as included in the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) for the Great Lakes.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – OR&R [Great Lakes Environmental Response Management Application](#)

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Great Lakes Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as Environmental Sensitivity Index maps, ship locations, weather, and ocean currents in a centralized, easy-to-use format for environmental responders and decision makers.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships](#)

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, prevention, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Great Lakes Regional Coordinator supports coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris outreach to local audiences. The Shedd Aquarium, in partnership with the MDP and local restaurants, will be working with businesses to build capacity and skills to adopt sustainable practices and make a measurable reduction in single-use plastics used in foodservice industry operations. The MDP has also worked with Great Lakes stakeholders to develop the Great Lakes Marine Debris Action Plan, which provides a road map for strategic progress in making the Great Lakes, its coasts, people, and wildlife free from the impacts of marine debris.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System \(Great Lakes Observing System\)](#)

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS®, is a federally and regionally coordinated observing system with 17 interagency and 11 regional partners. The System addresses regional and national needs for coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data and information. This includes gathering and disseminating regional observations; data management; modeling and analysis; education and outreach; and research and development. The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS), one of the 11 IOOS regional coastal ocean observing systems, provides public access to critical, real-time and historical data and information about the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and interconnecting waterways for use in managing, safeguarding and understanding these immensely valuable freshwater resources. GLOS is intended to gather and integrate chemical, biologic and hydrologic data, and monitor lake conditions and trends over time.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Louisiana to help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Louisiana and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a Navigation Manager located in Silver Spring, MD to support mariners and stakeholders in Great Lakes waters.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Response Team](#)

The Office of Coast Survey (OCS) maintains the nation's nautical charts and publications for U.S. coasts and the Great Lakes. OCS navigation managers are strategically located in U.S. coastal areas to provide regional support to federal and state agencies in order to assist with navigational challenges. The Office of Coast Survey's Navigation Response Branch (NRB) conducts routine and emergency hydrographic surveys; and working with the regional Navigation Managers, navigation response teams (NRT) work around-the-clock after storms to speed the reopening of ports and waterways. During emergency response, the NRTs provide time-sensitive information to the U.S. Coast Guard or port officials, and transmit data to NOAA cartographers for updating Coast Survey's suite of navigational charts. Mobile integrated response team (MIST) kits are available to the Great Lakes that can be used on a vessel of opportunity and staffed by NRT members.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)

The National Ocean Service (NOS) operates one long-term, continuously operating tide station in the state of Illinois that provides data and information for maritime navigation and is capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. This station is located at Calumet Harbor, IL. This station also includes meteorological sensors. Each station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels to help connect the water level to land.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for [Zero Waste Week](#)

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

[Statewide](#)

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#) and [John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program](#)

The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network and associated researchers through the

competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. In FY20, 43 competitive grants were awarded nationwide totalling \$3.7 million, with one for \$99,873 going to Chicago Zoological Society in Illinois.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#)

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency, property values and quality of life.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education and Training Program](#)

The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). B-WET currently serves seven areas of the country: California, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Hawai'i, New England, and the Pacific Northwest. The Great Lakes B-WET program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. Great Lakes B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds. Please see regional funding opportunities for priorities and eligibility details.

National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Ann Arbor, MI serving the Great Lakes region including Illinois. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

National Weather Service - [NEXRAD \(WSR-88D\) Systems](#)

NEXRAD is used to warn the people of the United States about dangerous weather and its location. This radar technology allows meteorologists to warn the public to take shelter with more notice than ever before. The NEXRAD network provides significant improvements in severe weather and flash flood warnings, air traffic safety, flow control for air traffic, resource protection at military bases, and management of water, agriculture, forest, and snow removal. NEXRAD radar has a range of up to 250 nautical miles, and can provide information about wind speed and direction, as well as the location, size, and shape of precipitation. There are 159 operational NEXRAD radar systems deployed throughout the United States and overseas, of which two are in Illinois.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems Stations](#)

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS

works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are 17 ASOS stations in Illinois.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program Sites](#)

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS.

The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals' energy bills monthly. There are 293 COOP sites in Illinois.

National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters](#)

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are 29 NWR transmitters in Illinois.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program](#)

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a federal-university partnership administered by NOAA that integrates research, extension education and outreach. Sea Grant forms a network of 34 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, Lake Champlain, and Guam. The Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program fosters the creation and stewardship of an enhanced and sustainable environment and economy along southern Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes region through research, education, and outreach. Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant research addresses the spread, introduction, and economic impact of aquatic invasive species, monitors emerging contaminants in Lake Michigan, informs ecologically sound and sustainable coastal economic development and land use, and helps foster a viable aquaculture industry for the region. The administrative offices are located in Champaign and West LaFayette.

NOAA Office of Education — [Environmental Literacy Program](#)

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In Illinois, ELP supports the American Meteorological Society's DataStreame courses for K-12 educators through a grant and in-kind support. These courses use weather, climate, and the ocean as contexts for teaching science and improving understanding about the Earth system.

NOAA In Your State is managed by [NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) and maintained with information provided by NOAA's Line, Corporate, and Staff Offices. Questions about specific programs or offices should be directed to the NOAA Line, Corporate, or Staff Office listed.

More information for those offices may be found at [NOAA.gov](#).
